

to determine the accentuation of all polysyllables by proper authorities, as it is one of those capricious phenomena which cannot be easily reduced to rules. Thus there is no antecedent reason for difference of accent in the two words *dolorous* and *sonorous*, yet of the one Milton gives the sound in this line,

He pass'd o'er many a region *dolorous*,  
and that of the other in this,  
*Sonorous* metal blowing martial sounds.

It may be likewise proper to remark metrical licences, such as contractions, *generous*, *gen'rous*, *reverend*, *rev'rend*; and coalitions, as *region*, *question*.

BUT it is still more necessary to fix the pronunciation of monosyllables, by placing with them words of correspondent sound, that one may guard the other against the danger of that variation, which to some of the most common, has already happened, so that the words *wound*, and *wind*, as they are now frequently pronounced, will not rhyme to *sound*, and *mind*. It is to be remarked that many words written alike are differently pronounced, as *flow*, and *brow*, which may be thus registred *flow*, *woe*, *brow*, *now*, or of which the exemplification may be generally given by a distich. Thus the words *tear* or lacerate, and *tear* the water of the

the eye, have the same letters, but may be distinguished thus, *tear*, *dare*; *tear*, *peer*.

SOME words have two sounds, which may be admitted, as being equally defensible by usage. Thus *great* is differently used.

For Swift and him despis'd the farce of flattery,  
The sober follies of the wise and *great*.

As if misfortune made the throne her seat,  
And none could be unhappy but the *great*.

The care of such minute particulars may be considered as trifling, but these particulars have not been hitherto unworthy of attention in more polished languages.

THE accuracy of the French, in stating the pronunciation of their letters, is well known; and, among the moderns, Crescimbeni has not thought it unnecessary to register the countrymen of the words, which, in composition, are allowed to be different, and of which the number is now so fixed, that a modern poet is suffered to increase it.

WHEN the orthography and pronunciation of words is fixed, the ETYMOLOGY or DERIVATION is next to be considered, and the words are to be distinguished according to their different classes, whether simple or compound, as *day-light*; whether